

The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX)
Ranking Member, Committee on Science and Technology
Floor Speech on
H.R. 362, *10,000 Teachers, 10 Million minds Math and Scholarship Act*
April 24, 2007

Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairwoman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to support H.R. 362. In the last Congress, the National Academy of Sciences' Rising above the Gathering Storm report, as well as several other reports, emphasized the importance of strengthening science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in the U.S. to ensure that the nation's workforce can compete globally in high-tech, high-value industries, such as information technology, biotechnology, semiconductor manufacturing, and nanotechnology. President Bush followed up on these reports with his American Competitiveness Initiative, and the Republicans have led this effort throughout the 109th Congress because we understand the importance of promoting innovation to keep our nation competitive globally.

I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, most of which was included in a Republican led effort in the last Congress to implement many of the reports' suggestions, by expanding current programs versus creating duplicative new programs.

This bill authorizes programs to improve U.S. math, science, and engineering education at all levels – K-12, undergraduate, and graduate. These programs will develop and provide teacher training, attract math and science majors to teaching, improve undergraduate math, science, and engineering courses, and expand interdisciplinary graduate work, primarily by strengthening existing programs at the National Science Foundation.

I am particularly pleased with the 10,000 Teachers, 10 Million minds title, which is modeled on a program at the University of Texas called UTeach.

As reported, this is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it. Mr. Chairman/Madam Chairwoman, I reserve the balance of my time.